

Dutchess County Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Task Force

October 2, 2019 - 5:30-7:00pm

Dutchess County Stabilization Center, Training Room C-104, 230 North Road, Poughkeepsie NY 12601

INFORMAL MEETING MINUTES

Task Force Members Present: Brad Barclay (DC Dept. of Planning & Development) (Co-coordinator), Steve MacAvery (Dutchess County Environmental Management Council) (Co-coordinator), Audrey Friedrichsen (Scenic Hudson), Vicky Kelly (Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies), Carolyn Klocker (Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County), Europa McGovern (Hudson Valley Regional Council), and Brian Scoralick (DC Soil and Water Conservation District)

Other Members Not Present: Bridgette Anderson (Dutchess Community College), Gary Bassett (Village of Rhinebeck), Anthony Campagiorni (Central Hudson Gas & Electric), Dale Borchet (Dutchess County Legislature), Melissa Everett (Sustainable Hudson Valley), Mark Figliozi (Town of Pleasant Valley), Jeff Irish (Sun Common), Christopher Kroner (MASS Design Group // Hudson Valley Design Lab, Jacob Lawrence (Arlington High School), and Allan Page (A. Page & Associates, LLC)

Other Attendees: Shelby Frangk (DC Dept. of Planning & Development), Michelle Gluck (Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County), and Eoin Wrafter (DC Dept. of Planning & Development)

Welcome and Self-Introductions

Brad Barclay (DC Dept. of Planning & Development) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members of the Task Force introduced themselves.

Review of Draft Minutes from the June 24, 2019 Task Force Meeting

The [June 24, 2019 meeting minutes](#) were reviewed by the committee, but could not be adopted due to a lack of quorum; these minutes will be voted on at the next meeting. Brad reminded the public to review the [Climate Smart Communities webpage](#) on the Dutchess County Government website for past meeting minutes, future meeting dates, and other information related to the Task Force.

Report on NYS CSC Program Review of Actions Submitted by Dutchess County

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation has completed its review of Dutchess County's Climate Smart Communities (CSC) submittal and has deemed Dutchess County a Bronze-level CSC. Brad noted that this achievement was slated for competition within a 12- to 18-month period but the County received its certification in just ten months, completing the mandatory actions and documenting enough priority actions to earn 122 points in the program's rating system. Brad distributed the State's report on Dutchess County's Bronze-level certification, listing the points that credit was received for. Brad thanked the Task Force for their diligent efforts, which helped to achieve certification so quickly.

Though certification has been received, the County Executive's press release on the subject alluded to the fact that the County's CSC work is not done. At the June Task Force meeting, it was noted that a consolidated funding application (CFA) would be submitted to the State for a collaborative effort of up to nine (9) Dutchess County communities and Dutchess County, which would provide funding to develop a government operations greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory and a draft climate action plan. This application was submitted and if the funding is awarded, this 18- to 24-month effort would be led by the Hudson Valley Regional Council (HVRC) and ICLEI. In addition to potentially pursuing the GHG

inventory, the Task Force/County will be looking at what would be required to achieve Silver-level certification in the CSC program, which requires 300 points (178 additional points would be required). All of work completed or being worked on by the various committees will only add to the potential future points that can be achieved for Silver-level certification. The next submission deadlines for certification are in January and April 2020.

Committee Reports

- **Renewables and Energy Efficiency Committee:** Committee Chair Figliozzi (Town of Pleasant Valley) was unable to attend this evening's meeting. He will provide an update on the committee's work at the next Task Force meeting. Likely, information gathered by this committee will be instrumental in the completion of a future GHG inventory.
- **Transportation Efficiencies Committee:** Committee Chair Bassett (Village of Rhinebeck) was unable to attend this evening's meeting. In his absence, Michelle Gluck (CCE Dutchess County) reported on the committee's work thus far, which include discussions on fleet efficiency (such as a fleet inventory and fleet right-sizing), emphasizing public transit, and a Safe Routes to School program. In advance of the next meeting, committee members were asked to review the [Executive Summary of Moving Dutchess 2](#), the County's long-range transportation plan, as well as investigate the more long-term transportation efficiency goals for CSC certification. Brad added that Central Hudson and NYCOMMCO have partnered to put recording information in 40 of the County's vehicles to gather real-time data and driving and use patterns, and investigate how these vehicles might fare as either hybrid or electric vehicles. The actions being reviewed by the committee could amount to anywhere from 21 to 41 additional points.
- **Greenhouse Gas Inventories & Climate Action Plans Committee:** Europa McGovern (HVRC) restated that a consolidated funding application (CFA) was submitted to the State DEC for a collaborative effort of 10 local municipalities, including Dutchess County, to provide funding to develop a government operations GHG emissions inventory and a draft climate action plan. The hope is that this collaborative process will help to jumpstart the climate efforts of the other participating local governments, which are the cities of Beacon and Poughkeepsie, the towns of Amenia, Poughkeepsie, Pleasant Valley, Rhinebeck, and Union Vale, and the villages of Rhinebeck and Wappingers Falls. News of funding awards are expected in December 2019. This project has been titled the Climate Action Planning Institute. A similar climate-focused project was recently completed in Ulster County (2018-2019) and was also facilitated by the HVRC.
- **Governmental Plans Committee:** Committee Chair Carille (Dutchess County Solid Waste Davison) was unable to attend this evening's meeting. In her absence, Carolyn Klocker (CCE Dutchess County) reported on the committee's work thus far, which include discussions on action items that the committee can research and gather submittal materials for, such as information on resource recovery, as well as the [County's Hazard Mitigation Plan](#) and local solid waste management plan, [Rethinking Waste](#).
- **Outreach and Education Committee:** Committee Chair Kelly (Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies) reported that committee discussion focused on how this group could facilitate a positive, outreaching relationship with the public; ideas include: an EMC/County-sponsored CSC Facebook page, crowdsourced tools, the calendar on the County website/CSC SharePoint, local meetings at public libraries, advertising on County public transit, creation of brochures/tabling items, and increased presence at local events. The committee will continue to gather and pursue avenues related to these ideas. Europa McGovern (HVRC) mentioned that an event to celebrate the Bronze-level certification may be a great way to spread the word about CSC and could also solicit more public interest in the program; with the help of others on the Task Force,

this committee will continue to research this idea. It was mentioned that this event could happen at the December Task Force meeting.

Discussion of CSC Task Force SharePoint Site

Brad noted that additional work has been done to the CSC SharePoint sites, including the streamlining of the Task Force site and the creation of committee sites, as well as a group webinar to demonstrate all the sites and their features. The committee was encouraged to begin to use SharePoint by reviewing documents/resources, posting items, and starting discussions. A link to the recorded SharePoint webinar was sent to Task Force members for their reference.

Public Comment

There was a question from the public regarding taking action to submit other CSC action items as they are completed, in addition to, and likely in advance of, a completed GHG inventory and climate action plan. The Task Force maintained that anytime an action item becomes available for submittal, steps will be taken to submit it and, as appropriate, future submissions will include renewal of already submitted action items.

Next Steps

Brad noted that next steps include working with the various committees on gathering items that can be pursued for Silver-level certification and compiling these into a spreadsheet that can be uploaded onto SharePoint. He also requested committees keep an eye out for any grants that could help fund the competition of future action items needed for Silver-level certification. Brad announced that he will send out a Doodle Poll for the next Task Force meeting which will take place in mid-December.

Respectfully submitted:

Shelby Frangk, Planner

Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development